Safeguards agreement with IAEA

†2234. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is necessary to enter into a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency to ensure energy safety in the country;

(b) whether the above agreement is also necessary to have eight new light reactors of 100 MW each proposed in the Eleventh Five Year Plan;

(c) the number of atomic reactors planned to be installed in the coming ten years in India and the location of installation; and

(d) the number of atomic reactors for which orders have been booked by Indian and by when they would be obtained?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Concluding an India-Specific Safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency is one of the steps needed for international civil nuclear commerce to open up for India. The Eleventh Five Year Plan proposals envisage among other projects commencement of work on ten Light Water Reactors (LWRs) of 1000 MWe or higher, subject to opening up of international commerce in nuclear power with India.

(c) and (d) In addition to ten LWRs to be set up with foreign cooperation, the indigenous programme envisages commencement of work on eight Pressurised Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs) of 700 MWe each after ensuring fuel supply linkages by opening up new uranium mines in the country, four Fast Breeder Reactors of 500 MWe each and a 300 MWe Advanced Heavy Water Reactor in the next 10 years. Four sites at Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu and at Jaitapur, Maharashtra (for LWRs), Rawatbhata, Rajasthan and Kakrapar, Gujarat (PHWRs) have been approved in principle by the Government. Site Selection Committee has evaluated more sites and submitted their report. No decision has been taken so far. While initial work on four new indigenous PHWRs has commenced no orders have been booked for imported reactors since international nuclear commerce has still not opened up for India.

Suicide attack in Afghanistan

2235. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that due to suicide attack on a well guarded police station in Kabul and due to the resurgence of Taliban in Afghanistan, the Indian community in Afghanistan is under increased security risk; and

(b) if so, the specific measures that Government has taken to secure safety of India Officials, business and Indian workers there?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) There has been a decline in the security situation, including a number of attacks on police personnel and installations in Kabul in the recent past.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government of Afghanistan have strengthened security for Indian personnel and projects in Afghanistan. In addition, for Zaranj-Delaram road project, being executed in security-sensitive. Nimroz/Helmand province by Border Roads Organisation, the Government of India has also deployed ITBP security personnel to supplement local Afghan security provided by the Afghan Government. The Embassy and the four Consulates in Afghanistan are provided security at levels determined by the Ministry of External Affairs in consultation with Government of Afghanistan. Indian nationals registered with the Embassy are being regularly advised about the prevailing security scenario in the country through security advisories. International Organisation/companies in Afghanistan provide security cover to their employees including Indians.

Exemption on property tax

†2236. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government gives exemption to different embassies on property tax;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has formulated any policy in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the total loss incurred by Government for giving exemption to embassies on property tax?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (f) Under Article 23 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations (VCDR) 1961, "the sending State and the Head of Mission shall be exempt from all national, regional or municipal dues and taxes in respect of the premises of the Mission, whether owned or leased, other than such as represent payment for specific services rendered". India is a party to the Convention and has ratified it on 15 October 1965. In order to give effect to this Convention, Parliament has enacted the Diplomatic Relations (Vienna Convention) Act 1972. In terms of provisions of the Convention, diplomatic Missions are exempt from payment of property tax to the foreign Governments concerned.

Task force on disarmament and non-proliferation

2237. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any task force has been set up by Government to review India's existing position on disarmament and non-proliferation issues;

(b) whether the task force has submitted its report to Government;

(c) if so, the details of recommendations thereof; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government to implement the above recommendations?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.